

LEPC Objectives:

1. To obtain and provide the general public with information: Mandated under EP-CRA and SARA Title III, created to protect their right-to-know, and that educates people about their Local Emergency Planning Committee.
2. To provide a hazardous substances emergency response plan.
3. To educate the general public on what to do in the event of an emergency. Since September 11, 2001, public awareness and desire for accurate information regarding basic self protection, preparedness and crisis management has never been greater. Statistically, a community is at greater risk from a meth lab, apartment fire, overturned fuel tanker, train derailment, manufacturing accident, or natural disaster than terrorism.
4. To work as a partner with business and industry to improve participation in mandatory Tier II Chemical annual reporting; and promote maximum utilization of Material Safety Data Sheets. Increase awareness and emphasize importance of reporting significant releases and up-to-date inventories.
5. To educate and provide information to the general public that will enhance the performance of first responders and supporting agencies within Collin County and the region.

This publication made possible by a grant from:
The Governor's Division of Emergency Management
State Emergency Response Commission

For more information on EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS:

www.collincountytx.gov
www.dshs.state.tx.us
www.ready.gov
www.redcross.org

For Kids:
www.wally.org



COLLIN COUNTY LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE

825 N. McDonald Street, Suite 140
McKinney, Texas 75069

Phone: 972-548-5576
Metro: 972-424-1460 ext. 5576
Fax: 972-548-5574
Email: fmadmin@collincountytx.gov
www.collincountytx.gov

Photos Courtesy:
LaVada Brown & Randy Conrad, Lucas Volunteer Fire Department
Collin County Sheriff's Office
City of Wylie

COLLIN COUNTY LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE

WHAT IS THE LEPC?



Learn
Educate
Prepare
Communicate

Getting to know your Collin County LEPC



In October 1986, Congress enacted the “**Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act**” (EPCRA) and “**Superfund Amendments Reauthorization Act Title III**”

(SARA Title III). This initiative was in direct response to the 1984 Union-Carbide toxic gas release in Bhopal, India. This one incident resulted in thousands of deaths and injuries in the area surrounding the facility. Under United States Code Title 42, the **Local Emergency Planning Committee** (LEPC) is the organization responsible for development and implementation at the local level of the plans set-forth and required by this legislation.

EPCRA, SARA Title III, and Texas Health & Safety Codes exist to protect and educate the general public. The LEPC's primary charges are:

1. To ensure that residents and workers in Collin County are aware and informed of their right to know what chemicals are being stored, used, released, and discarded.
2. To facilitate public requests for information as required by these laws.

EPCRA and SARA Title III also serve business and industry employees as well as first responders (police, firefighters, EMS) by protecting their right to know about chemicals they may be exposed to in the course of performing their jobs.

Federal law requires business and industry operators to perform annual chemical inventories (Tier II Chemical Report) and submit their report to the Texas Department of State Health Services (TDSHS), local Fire Chief **and** the LEPC no later than March 1st of each year.

The report (Tier II Chemical Report) is a standardized form created by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to rate and identify chemicals and hazardous materials. Whether or not a company must file this annual list is determined by the type of chemical and how much is on-hand.

Having this information readily available to Fire Departments serve two important purposes:

1. Enhances response time to an incident with the right equipment and personnel.
2. Immediately alerts first responders whether the public is at risk and advisories are warranted.



In the event of a chemical release (i.e., spill, leak, emission, gas cloud), a business or industry must report the incident immediately. Texas Health & Safety Codes state a specific timeline for reporting and failure to do so is a violation of **both** Federal and State law *whether or not First Responders were dispatched to the scene*.

If First Responders are dispatched to a release incident and a Tier II Report is **not** on file within the jurisdiction, the operator is in violation.

The responding agencies are entitled to recover the costs of securing, containing, and managing the incident.

Mitigation

Response

Recovery

The LEPC is an all volunteer organization comprised of members of law enforcement, fire and rescue, healthcare, public health, communications, risk management, emergency management, Homeland Security, FEMA, EPA, CDC, NOAA, Federal, State, and local government, reclamation, charities, and relief organizations like the American Red Cross. The businesses and industries most responsible for the chemicals and materials in the community are valued members as well.

Sub-committees include: Public Information and Education, Right-To-Know, Government and Industry Liaison, Emergency Response and Resources, and Executive. Most of the members live and work in Collin County. As an “unfunded mandate” the LEPC has little or no annual budget and relies on support from its members and grants.

The LEPC believes that “practice makes perfect.” First Responder seminars, classes, hands-on training and drills are conducted within the County and on the regional level year-round.



Drill scenarios have included:

overturned tankers	train derailments
toxic gas releases	mass casualties
explosions	building collapses
terrorism	bio-terrorism
natural disasters (flood & tornado)	